stage career- She helped herself, as most people do who get oit I am afraid that I have discouraged more stage aspirants than I have encouraged- Perhaps I have snubbed really talented people, so great is ray horror of girls taking to the stage as a profession when they don't realise what they are about, I once told an elderly aspirant that it was quite useless for any one to go on the stage who had not either great beauty or great talent. She wrote saying that my letter had been a great relief to her, as now she was not discouraged. " I have to/A."

There is one actress on the English stage whom I did definitely encourage, of whose talent I was *certain.*

When rny daughter was a student at the Royal Academy of Music, Dr. (now'Sir Alexander) Mackenzie asked me to distribute the medals to the Elocution Class at the end of the term. I was quite " new to the job/* and didn't under-stand the procedure. No girl, I have learned since, can be given the gold medal until she has won both the bronze and the silver medals—that is, until she has been at the Academy three years. I was for giving the gold medallists, who only wanted certificates, *br&nse* medals; and of one young girl who was in her first year and only entitled to a bronze medal, I said: " Oh, she must have the gold medal, of course!"

She was a queer-looking child, handsome, with a face suggesting all manner of possibilities. Wten she stood up to read the speech from " Richard IL'* she was iterwas, but courageously stood her ground- She began slowly, and with a most " fetching " voice, to *think*

oat the
You saw her think them, heard her speak than* It
so different from the intelligent elocution, the good recita-
tion, bat bad impersonation of the others! " A pathetic
face, a passionate voice, a *brain" 1* thought to myself*
It must have been at this point that the girl flung away